



Howard County Council

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Minutes (Approved)
Quarterly Meeting, County Council and Board of Education
June 16, 2015
8:30 a.m.
C. Vernon Gray Conference Room

In attendance: Jon Weinstein, Calvin Ball, Mary Kay Sigaty, Greg Fox, Janet Siddiqui, Ann De Lacy, Bess Altwerger, Sandra H. French, Ellen Flynn Giles, Christine E. O'Connor, Cynthia L. Vaillancourt, Renee Foose.

Staff: Jeff Meyers, Craig Glendenning, Lisa Geerman, Joel Gallihue, Linda Wise, Frank Eastham

Others: Tom Carbo, Jennifer Sager

Ms. Sigaty called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

2015 Feasibility Study: Mr. Gallihue discussed the contents of the 2015 Feasibility Study. The study, among other things, leads to the creation of the Open/Closed Chart, which is required as part of the County's APFO. Under Board Policy 6010, redistricting may be considered when schools reach 110% of capacity. No redistricting is contemplated this year but it will be considered as Elementary School 42 opens in 2018. Normally redistricting occurs when a capital project opens providing additional capacity. Capacity issues may also be addressed by relocating certain programs from crowded schools. School population projections have been more than 99% accurate, but this year's annual reevaluation of the data projects slightly slower school population growth in the near term compared to last year's projection. The school system compares actual numbers against projections, those comparisons are not in the study. The school system may add them as appendices in the future. The school system analyzes the data both by school and by level. The detailed data are available from Mr. Gallihue. Although housing turnover in existing communities provides the majority of the new students that come to the school system, new development is the cause of most capacity issues that lead to capital projects. The school system is aware that housing types, housing ages, and housing locations need to be considered when projecting population changes. The existing capacity in some schools may be too far from the crowded schools to be useful even with multiple redistrictings shifting several school zones toward the space. Building a new school, for example, high school 13, requires not only having an appropriate site but also meeting the State's criteria, which usually leads to some State funding. The need for new high school 13 is not likely to meet those criteria in the next few years. The State has commissioned a study on the "Cost of Adequacy of Education Funding in the State of Maryland". The results of that study may impact Howard County disproportionately. MABE has a group that is monitoring the study. The school system will reproduce the maps shown on pages 37 and 38 of the study but with dots showing school locations.

Current and Projected Class Size: Mr. Eastham described the process used to ensure that each school has sufficient staff. He noted that class sizes are not going to increase next year. Late in each calendar year, the school system produces a class size report. The most recent report (December 15, 2014) is available here: [http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/9RXW24646253/\\$file/12%2015%202014%20Class%20Size%20BR.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/9RXW24646253/$file/12%2015%202014%20Class%20Size%20BR.pdf)

Early Retirement Program: Dr. Foose noted that new information will not be available until October or November. The subject should be on an agenda then.

Workforce Housing: Mr. Carbo answered questions about the County's requirements for MIHU, which applies in all zones other than NT. Ms. Sigaty described how various kinds of housing were developed in NT, which was the result of the developer's plans and decisions. Outside of NT, multifamily housing projects must include MIHU while single family projects may result in a fee-in-lieu. The fee-in-lieu money may be used for a variety of activities as provided in County law. As the fee-in-lieu program is new, there is little to report so far. As part of the redevelopment of downtown Columbia, County law requires the developer to pay a fee based on units built. That fee system is not resulting in workforce housing units, thus changes to the system are being considered. Developers also pay excise taxes that go either to schools or to increasing road capacity. Using that money for mass transit would require a change in State law.

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.